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Food and Nutrition NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 11

USDA ANNOUNCES INCOME POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR 1971-1972 NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Income poverty guidelines for determining children's eligibility for free or reduced price lunches in the 1971-72 school year were announced by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng on June 14. Use of the guidelines is mandatory for all schools under the National School Lunch Program and in other schools receiving federally-donated foods, starting July 1, 1971.

The new guidelines are higher than the 1970-71 guidelines. For example, last year, the income eligibility minimum for a family of four was \$3,720. The new guidelines for the four-person family is \$3,940, reflecting the latest statistics on poverty levels reported by the Bureau of the Census. Variations for Hawaii and Alaska are consistent with such variations in the Office of Economic Opportunity Poverty Guidelines.

By law, any child from a family with an income at or below the national income poverty guidelines shall be served a lunch, either free or at a reduced price (not to exceed 20 cents), in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or in other schools receiving federally-donated foods for their lunch programs. Mr. Lyng noted that private schools with programs administered by the Department of Agriculture are exempt from these guidelines under certain conditions.

Schools in the National School Lunch Program or receiving donated foods must publicly announce the criteria they will use to determine eligibility for free or reduced price lunches. At a minimum, schools must consider family income, family size, and the number of children in the family attending school and pre-school programs. The income criteria cannot be less than the income poverty guidelines announced annually by the Secretary of Agriculture. Schools also must establish and publicly announce separate criteria for free and for reduced price lunches.

In applying these guidelines, school food authorities may consider both the income of the family during the past 12 months and the family's current rate of income to determine which is the better indicator of the need for free and reduced price lunches.

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The 1971-72 guidelines are:

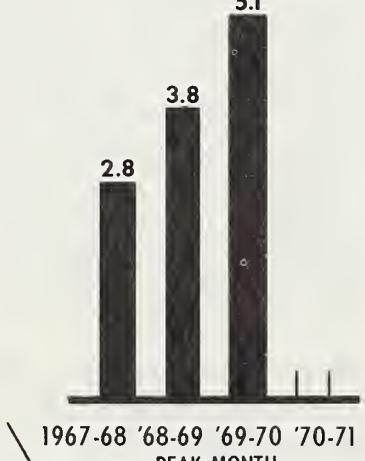
Total Family Size	48 States, D.C. and Outlying Areas*	Hawaii	Alaska
One	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,320	\$ 2,490
Two	2,670	3,050	3,270
Three	3,310	3,780	4,050
Four	3,940	4,500	4,830
Five	4,530	5,170	5,550
Six	5,110	5,830	6,260
Seven	5,640	6,430	6,910
Eight	6,170	7,040	7,560
Nine	6,650	7,580	8,140
Ten	7,120	8,130	8,720
Eleven	7,600	8,680	9,300
Twelve	8,080	9,230	9,880
Each additional family member---	480	550	580

*"Outlying areas" include Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

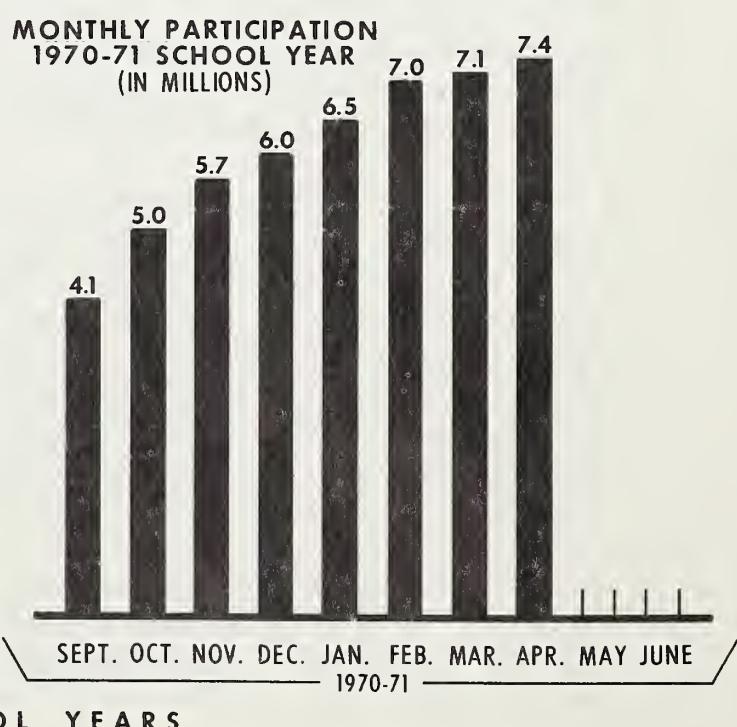
The guidelines were published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, June 15.

CHILDREN REACHED WITH FREE OR REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL LUNCHES

PEAK MONTH
DURING SCHOOL YEAR
(IN MILLIONS)



MONTHLY PARTICIPATION
1970-71 SCHOOL YEAR
(IN MILLIONS)



NAVAJO NATION TO OPERATE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Federal food distribution for needy families on the Navajo Reservation will be handled by the Navajo Nation, independently of State governments, by its first direct agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The agreement was signed by Peter MacDonald, Chairman of the Navajo Nation Council, and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng in a ceremony in Window Rock, Arizona, on June 10.

Under the agreement, the Navajo Nation will be responsible for determining which families are in need of food and what are the best ways to deliver food on the reservation. Previously, USDA foods were distributed through agreements with the State governments of Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. The program will now operate under one central jurisdiction and direction with the Navajo Nation working only with the Southwest Regional Office of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service in Dallas.

"We'll be taking the food closer to the people so that they won't need to travel such long distances to their supplies," says Chairman MacDonald, explaining that about 95 distribution points--many of them truck stops--will eventually cover the Reservation.

Improved handling facilities, more trucks, and other equipment will enable the Navajo Nation to offer its needy families the full supply of more than 20 USDA foods. This was made possible by the cooperative efforts of USDA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Interior, and the Indian Health Service in HEW.

The Department of Defense is releasing two central warehouses and loading dock facilities at Fort Wingate for the purpose, and satellite warehouses at Belmont, Indian Wells,

Crown Point, Shiprock, Kayenta, Chinlee, Tuba City, and Fort Defiance will be used to improve the program.

Recent estimates indicate that about 83,000 Navajos are eligible for USDA foods under eligibility standards agreed upon by the Navajo Nation and the Food and Nutrition Service. USDA expects to supply about 3,000,000 lbs. of food monthly for the Navajo Nation to distribute to its needy families. A family of four will get about 120 pounds of USDA foods per month.

18 COUNTIES DESIGNATED FOR FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Eighteen counties in 9 States were designated on June 15 for the Food Stamp Program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This action became possible when a number of previously designated areas relinquished their designations, thus making funds available for others. These 18 counties were selected on the basis of the date of their application for food stamps -- all prior to July 15, 1970.

The Food Stamp Program, administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, enables eligible low-income families to increase their food-purchasing power by investing their own food money in Federal food coupons ("food stamps") worth more than they paid. The coupons are spent like cash at retail food outlets authorized under the program.

Exact dates when the areas designated will begin issuing food stamps will be announced locally, after FNS personnel and State welfare officials have planned a timetable for the steps that need to be taken to assure effective and efficient programs.

These steps include training of welfare caseworkers in the community on Food Stamp Program objectives and

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procedures, providing arrangements for coupon issuance, certifying needy families as eligible for the program, and meeting with retail grocers and food wholesalers to assure their understanding of the food industry role before being authorized to accept and redeem the Federal food coupons.

The list by States of the counties designated includes: Carroll, Arkansas; Butte, California; Quitman, Georgia; Marshall, Mississippi; Craven, Onslow and Tyrrell, North Carolina; Brown, Highland, Jackson, Pike, Preble and Union, Ohio; Coos, Douglas, and Washington, Oregon; Lyman, South Dakota; and Ashland, Wisconsin.

CANNED ENTRE SYSTEM APPROVED FOR SCHOOL LUNCH

On June 17 the Department of Agriculture announced approval of a canned entree method of providing hot lunches in schools located in low income areas without kitchen facilities.

The unique, low-cost method of supplying lunches in nonfacility schools was developed and tested in Philadelphia, Pa., by the Academy of Food Marketing of St. Joseph's College with the cooperation of the Philadelphia Archidiocese. Lunches using the canned entree method can receive cash reimbursement and donated food assistance under the National School Lunch Program.

The lunches consist of individual 8-ounce cans of combination food (stews, beans and franks, spaghetti and meatballs, etc.), one-half pint of milk, and other foods to meet all the requirements of the Type A lunch. The cans are heated in inexpensive ovens, and served to the children directly from the cans, along with the supplement. The overall simplicity of the program and the fact that the program can be used for at-the-desk feeding makes it attractive for schools with no facilities and/or no cafeterias.

SALUTE TO SCHOOL LUNCH

In a Salute to School Lunch on June 7, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the National School Lunch Act of 1946, Secretary Clifford M. Hardin read messages sent by President Nixon and President Truman honoring all those Federal, State, and local workers who helped better the nutrition of a generation of school children.

Joining Secretary Hardin were Mrs. Hardin, Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Richard Lyng, Senator and Mrs. Clinton Anderson, Senator Charles Percy, Senator Allen J. Ellender, Mr. Lee Bickmore, Chairman of Nabisco, and Mrs. Virginia Farley, President of the American School Food Service Association.